

Transforming Choral Rehearsals from Good to Great

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Step 1: Examine Basic Music Teaching Competencies.

1. Curriculum and Pedagogy (planning, teaching)
2. Assessment (inform instruction and document student learning)
3. Positive learning environment (communication, community, management, joy, success)
4. Teacher musicianship (aural skills, analyze, evaluate, model, piano, conducting, recognize the expressive heart of music, knowledge of literature)
5. Transformational/inspirational skills (energy, motivation, enthusiasm, joy, passion, relationship, life connections, relevance)

Step 2: Reflect on big picture perspective.

1. Define what you want students to take away from their choral experience.
2. Recognize when unintentional factors are driving the rehearsal/program experience (e.g., student retention, concerts, MPA, scheduling, ego, tradition, teacher limitations).
3. Maintain balance when pursuing a meaningful human experience and promoting the choral art.
4. Recognize areas for self-improvement for growth.

Big Picture Goals Help all students:	Related Best Practices
Learn essential musical knowledge, skills, and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and implement a <u>comprehensive</u> choral curriculum with identified goals; • Develop learning plans (not rehearsal plans); • Plan for student accountability; • Find a way to assess big picture goals (what students are taking away); • Begin with the end in mind; • Plan with a knowledge of students; • Provide differentiated instruction and intervention for resistant and differently-abled learners; • Make learning relevant; get to the good stuff; explain rationale; foster goal-directed behavior (Duke)
Become musically literate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive and systematic music literacy skill development plan that enables students to audiate, perform, read, write, and create music with understanding; • Teach students to be able to visually scan music in order to be able to recognize, audiate, perform and predict tonal and rhythmic patterns with accuracy,

	expression, and understanding;
Develop a life-long passion for learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach students to be diligent, attentive, and inquisitive, risk-taking; • Make rehearsals and performances learning experiences
Be more sensitive; recognize and pursue “the beautiful”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach students to appreciate subtlety; • Play examples of instrumental music; • Use quality literature with great text; • Help students understand music’s role in the human experience
Develop independent musicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach students to choose, analyze, interpret, and rehearse music; • Foster student leadership and student-centered learning
Develop problem solving skills and creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students recognize, connect, hypothesize, understand, predict, transfer, and create
Be transformed and develop a life-long passion for music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate experiences of success, joy, and satisfaction; • Connect to what students’ value; • Show and promote energy, enthusiasm, and joy; • Help students experience the power of music and understand it’s role through diverse music and musical experiences
Identify and communicate feelings and ideas found in the music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honor students as artists; • Help students kinesthetically connect to musical expression; • Help students and develop a vocabulary for discussing musical expression; • Help students understand musical elements and recognize salient features of each piece; • Have students practice conveying various thoughts and feelings throughout a rehearsal • Have students assess if various ideas emotions (happiness, anger, sadness) are conveyed through the music • Begin with rote instruction (model and practice communicating a feeling) and eventually move toward individual interpretation; • Help students experience and be able to identify the “heart” of the music; • Help students become skilled and accountable for expression and self-expression
Be a part of a music making community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students value safety, respect, leadership, service, work ethic, responsibility, and relationship